Usage of coal dust

*217. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal based power plants discharge large quantities of dust which besides creating ecological problems has also been creating problem of proper storage;

(b) what is the approximate quantity of coal dust that has accumulated so far;

(c) whether this dust can be utilised for any useful purposes like making bricks etc; and

(d) whether any R & D work has been done in this area so that millions of tons of coal dust is put to some constructive use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) In a coal based power plant, coal is used for the boilers in a pulverised form and the coal dust discharged is not in large quantities. However, coal based power stations generate substantial quantities of ash, a major portion of which is in the form of fly ash. As per the latest available technology, fly ash is collected by highly efficient electrostatic precipitators to prevent pollution and emission from the chimney.

The total quantity of ash accumulated so far cannot be estimated as it is generated at several locations under different conditions and large areas of low lying land have been reclaimed after use as ash disposal areas. The ash produced at the coal based power stations can be utilised for several purposes such as the manufacture of bricks, pozzolanic portland cement and road building and construction materials. Research and development work has been undertaken for the utilisation of the ash produced at coal based power stations.

Grant of Interim Relief to employees of public sector enterprises

*218. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was arrived at on the 8th September, 1987 between the Bureu of Public Enterprises and the Central Labour Unions regarding the grant of Interim Relief to the employees who are governed by wage settlements in public sector enterprises; and

(b) if so, whether the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, Bihar, has implemented the same, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Uranium Corporation of India has paid Interim Relief to its non-executive employees.

Import of crude oil and petroleum products

*219. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated gross import of crude oil and petroleum products for the year 1988-89;

(b) what were the actual gross imports of crude oil and petroleum products during the year 1987-88;

(c) whether there has been an increase in the imports;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) how does the increased production of crude and natural gas in the country reflect in view of the